



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting Minutes March 16, 2019, 8:30 AM

Polk Business Center Meeting Room

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Tom Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- Tom Kelly, Rod Preble, Steve Rediske, Andy Wilhoit, Richard Miller (teleconference), Dave Mariani (teleconference)

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Patty Kabus (recorder, teleconference)
- Cheryl Clemens (Harmony Environmental)
- Supervisor Chris Nelson

4) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

5) APPROVE AGENDA:

- Rod motioned to approve the agenda, Steve seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

6) APPROVE MINUTES:

- Dave motioned to approve the February Meeting Minutes, Andy seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

7) TREASURER REPORT AND PAY CLAIMS:

- Balance Sheet, P&L and budget for February were presented and reviewed by the board.
- Over 71,708 left in operating account at the end of the year. Discussion about what to do with that money. Tom suggested moving it to the protection fund.

- Rod motioned to approve the February Balance Sheet, P&L and Budget, Andy seconded, all approved, motion carried.

8) Water Quality

- East Balsam Miller / Wilhoit
 - Cheryl from Harmony Environmental is here to discuss East Balsam (Cheryl handed out agenda items for the meetings with the advisory committee)
 - A citizens' advisory committee has been established with 14 - 16 lake shore owners from throughout the lake participating. Meetings have been set for April 27 and May 18.
 - The goal of the committee meetings is to educate the members with regard to the problems associated with the water quality in East Balsam, explain potential remedies to the problem, and get feedback from the committee members.
 - Be prepared to discuss questions and costs at the meeting as they come up, and make sure the committee has the information they will need
 - Bill James would present at the first meeting
 - Cedar, Long and Bone Lake processes have already gone through. Cedar and Long Lakes have begun. Bone Lake did not have enough water quality issues so decided not to move forward (2018 was one of the best years ever for Bone Lake water quality)
 - Tom noted that it is only East Balsam that has the water quality issues, and that this is an ongoing issue – not here some years and not other years
 - Dick noted that some years are better than others, but every year, starting mid-July, the seccy disk is 2 feet.
 - The newsletter information will be distributed a few weeks before the meeting
 - Andy noted that he has received some feedback that some people thing the issue is limited to East Balsam as opposed to the entire Lake. Cheryl explained that it does affect the whole lake.
 - Dockside article has been sent to the committee meeting members. The Bill James report will also be sent out to the committee members. Dick also has the Laker article about the Long Lake project and will send it out prior to the meeting. Cheryl said she could provide a shorter summarization that is more for the lay person and that focuses on the Balsam Lake Project.
 - Cheryl will get with Dick and Andy to plan for the meeting
 - Funding – Dick has done several different scenarios around funding. See the estimate page numbers #3 – he thinking this may be the clearest way to disseminate the information to the lake district. Bill James suggested a 10% contingency in case the price of Alum rises. An anticipated \$200,000 grant for the first application would bring the cost from \$772,000 to \$572,000.
 - Monitor from 2020 to 2022 to see whether a second application is needed at \$467,000. A second grant could bring this down another \$200,000. Cheryl suggested this grant should not be assumed and that separating the projects does not guarantee approval

- Continue to monitor. If needed, a third grant could be applied for that may cover 75% of the cost. Cheryl noted that monitoring should be included in the funding and share it with the constituents.
- We could apply for a loan to cover this cost, and then calculate cost per homeowner based on property value.
- David noted we need to be prepared for some who don't want anything done. Cheryl said in past presentations, most questions are around cost and that they can answer questions around chemicals
- Sedimentation - Dredging / Preble
 - It has been determined that we cannot proceed with dredging because we cannot obtain permits for all 3 bays. This is in line with the resolution that was passed.
 - This will need to be addressed in the Dockside and at the annual meeting as to why we aren't doing it.
 - At that point, this item can be closed.
- Healthy Lakes Native Plantings / Kelly
 - Room for 10 additional projects for this year. We have not committed to pursuing additional grant money beyond this year.
 - Rod has information on 2 additional people who are interested – he will get the names to Tom
- Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species
 - CBCW / Mork
 - No comment
 - CLP Purple- Loosestrife / Preble / Mork
 - Waiting for spring monitoring process to determine the permit plan for this year
 - In the spring survey is done, Matt will document where the Loosestrife is if he sees it but he does not monitor the full lake
 - In spring, we need to get permission if they are on shore, and then eradicate them. We don't need permission if not on shore

9) OLD BUSINESS:

- PINE ISLAND BAY PROPERTIES – add to district / Mariani
 - Dave is working with Susan Lee (Polk County Abstract). It will cost around \$500 to get this completed. Adding the 3 properties will cover the cost. Timeframe is before next tax season.
- Rice Creek sedimentation pond sign / Mariani / Kelly
 - Dave got the information on the people at the school and will contact them this week. Rod noted he also thought he had sent another contact who will do it for minimal cost. Andy's contact will charge a bit more because he would be coming out of the city.
- Polk County Shoreline Zoning / Mariani
 - Chris Nelson discussed shoreline tourist rooming house ordinances, which is now on the county agenda for the last few weeks

- A new tourist rooming house group has formed and there have been a few meetings at this point to discuss the issues with a tourist rooming house (no supervision and more people)
- The Environmental Services Committee met this week and have determined they need to do something. They are discussing a max of 8 people and more than that would be considered conditional use in order to prevent too many people (which has a negative impact on the lake and the environment)
- Challenges include enforcement, they are currently trying to find a way to enforce this. This also includes DNR issues, trash on the ice, too many boats tied to a single dock.
- Pictures to document issues will assist in enforcement of laws and dealing with complaints (how many citations and what are the consequences for first, second violation).
- Chris feels a second violation should result in suspension of the license and the person should need to come before the board. The 'teeth' will be around how people can report complaints or violations and what the consequences are
- Tom's feedback is that left un-regulated, it will have a negative impact on the lake. Tom asked what the rental rules are. Chris said month to month rentals are outside of the purview of the county.
- Chris feels Supervisors are not necessarily qualified to manage this and rely on lake districts to help inform.
- Dave mentioned educating the annual meeting attendees about the problem, the impacts, and how to report violations, would be a positive impact as it would empower lake people to help enforce laws by reporting to the Polk County Zoning Department (Jason) and/or the Lake Rehab District
- We could also list the process for informing of violations (and what the rules are) on our website
- Chris also said ice parties are an issue because of trash left on the lake that then gets covered by snow or not cleaned up, and then impact the lake in the spring
- Chris feels letters, etc to the county will have a big impact
- Chris feels the regulations would happen before the annual meeting so input has urgency
- Chris said the county board would like to hear from the shoreline district what their recommendation for consequences for violations. No notice to neighbors, etc. There are conditions on it but not as strict as other businesses, it is a loophole with no oversight
- Minimum inspection is required to meet a standard based on cubic feet, etc.
- Tom suggested Chris go to the Lake Homeowners Association. Chris said that isn't in his area of responsibility.
- We could also put it in the spring Dockside.
- Chris also noted the Leader ran an article about how Zoning may be changing in Wisconsin

- We need to identify 'rings' around a lake and identify what types of land use is allowed based on distance from the lake. Currently, all ponds (even very small ponds on private property) are treated the same.
- Comments: Dave said once we know what the rules and regulations are, we can help educate our lake owners in enforcement
- Dave will prepare an article for the spring Dockside
- DNR proposed aquatic plant management plan review / Preble
 - Tom has asked Cheryl to review and suggest specifically, what impact this proposed review would have on our programs

10) NEW BUSINESS:

- 2020 Financial Budget
 - Tom has emailed the 2020 budget template and asks that everyone come to the April meeting prepared to discuss, or send before the meeting. It has to be finalized by the May meeting so it can be prepared and published before the annual meeting

11) OTHER REPORTS:

- Village / Rediske
 - Fire and Ice event is today
 - Captains Bar is now called the Barred Owl. Soft opening has already taken place, food will be added as things come in. It looks nice, a lot of improvements have been made
 - Brandon Shower has resigned
 - Village is behind on permits for the geese management but have said we will get the permits. The DNR has now taken over this program. Oiling permits will be approved, and will again be done by volunteers. Geese are already at the beach.
- County / Mariani
 - Already covered above

12) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- None

13) ADJOURN:

- Rod motioned to adjourn, Steve seconded, all approved, motion carried.